UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/1052
21 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am addressing you in reference to the draft presidential statement which has been submitted to the members of the Security Council for approval during the next formal session of the Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations deplores the fact that the draft to be approved seems to be very long and still retains language that the Council has already abandoned, as well as containing questions already resolved.

The draft does not reflect the reality of the situation of the peace process on the ground. It does not point out the perpetrator of the violations, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). It is important to underline that this organization disrupted the process of quartering and demobilizing its troops, and still wages armed military actions and harasses personnel of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III). Recently, Brazilian and Indian UNAVEM units were obstructed by UNITA forces while moving to their military compounds.

In addition, UNITA forces are still impeding the free movement of persons and goods in the areas under its control, and continues its hostile broadcasting of propaganda against the Government.

To give an example of UNITA's behaviour, in the city of Andulo in the Province of Bie, UNITA still maintains a tight curfew over its inhabitants, thus jeopardizing not only the free movement of the population but also the activities of the UNAVEM contingent based in the area.

Recently, the Government announced new positive initiatives to speed up the process, namely, the unilateral release of all remaining UNITA war prisoners and the return of national armed forces to their barracks.

The draft declaration does not mention the recent information provided by the UNAVEM III military chief in Angola, General Sibanda, and does not take into account the important decisions regarding the return of the rapid reaction

police, which is a gesture of the Government's good intentions regarding the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and the Peace Process.

As to the so-called South African mercenaries, the reference to this question in the draft is completely out of date since the Government has decided to unilaterally terminate the contract of the South African company "Executive Outcomes". In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations reiterates its denial that the South African military officials contracted by the Government to train its young national army are mercenaries.

Furthermore, it is not comprehensible that the Council is still labelling these forces as mercenaries when it is well known that mercenaries in fact have been used by UNITA in its war against the Angolan Government.

Aware of the need for the Council to monitor the evolution of the political and military situation in Angola, we strongly feel that it is unjustifiable to adopt a text such as the one that was submitted, which is extremely long, one-sided and needs further careful review in some parts.

Accordingly, we recommend the reformulation of some paragraphs, taking into account the comments above. This would help strengthen the peace process, removing it from lethargy, and encourage the positive actions already initiated by the Government.

I take this opportunity to inform the members of the Council, through you, that the Government has sent a delegation, led by Minister Faustino Muteka and Deputy Minister Higino Carneiro, to UNITA headquarters, at Bailundo, with a view to discussing with the UNITA leadership, including its leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, matters related to the proposal made by the Angolan president, H.E. Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, to hold a meeting soon within the Angolan territory.

The Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations is willing to provide suggestions and amendment proposals to the presidential draft declaration.

The Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations reaffirms the Government's willingness to do its utmost to fully implement the Lusaka protocol as the only way to lead Angola to democracy, peace, unity and national reconciliation.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative